



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS

Week Ending: May 22, 2011

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 22, 2011

Thunderstorms and heavy rainfall throughout Virginia during the week increased top-soil moisture in many areas and delayed hay activities. Some areas reported hail damage to corn and barley as a result of the recent storms. Days suitable for field work were 3.8. Cotton planting is almost complete while peanuts and full-season soybeans continue to be planted. Wheat is drying down in some areas pretty fast, especially in the sandier soils. Barley has turned and harvest may begin soon in some areas. Tobacco planting continued slowly due to the wet soil conditions. Vegetable growers are harvesting strawberries, asparagus, and greens and monitoring potatoes, squash, and other early summer crops for insects and diseases. Cantaloupes, sweet corn, peppers, squash, and tomatoes continue to be planted while sweet potato planting may begin next week.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 24, 2011	2	6	75	17
May 1, 2011	2	8	73	17
May 8, 2011	0	4	80	16
May 15, 2011	2	9	73	16
May 22, 2011	0	9	69	22

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 24, 2011	2	11	79	8
May 1, 2011	2	11	77	10
May 8, 2011	0	11	81	8
May 15, 2011	2	13	74	11
May 22, 2011	0	14	74	12

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	3	17	65	14
Livestock	0	3	15	59	23
Hay, Other	0	3	26	55	16
Hay, Alfalfa	0	1	17	68	14
Corn	0	1	11	77	11
Winter Wheat	0	1	8	74	17
Barley	0	1	12	70	17
Tobacco, Greenhouses	0	0	39	51	10
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	8	92	0
Summer Potatoes	0	0	40	60	0
Apples, All	0	0	28	72	0
Peaches	0	0	35	62	3
Grapes	0	0	10	82	8
Oats	0	0	16	84	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	86	79	91	89
Corn Emerged	68	60	75	73
Flue Cured Tobacco Transplanted	75	50	86	85
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	15	11	27	26
Dark Fire-Cured Tobacco Transplanted	40	30	60	57
Soybeans Planted	34	25	30	25
Soybeans Emerged	16	5	16	8
Winter Wheat Headed	98	92	97	58
Peanuts Planted	66	43	60	66
Oats for grain Seeded	97	77	100	N/A
Cotton Planted	98	75	85	85

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 22, 2011

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to May 21	Mar. 1 to May 21 normal	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	73	53	82	47	63	0	773	718	0.62	10.27	0.21	13.68	-3.00
Norfolk	79	60	85	56	70	4	896	772	0.81	5.34	-4.54	11.22	-6.04
Richmond	78	58	82	54	68	3	901	818	1.21	11.22	1.38	15.78	-0.65
Roanoke	73	52	83	50	63	-1	789	NA	0.96	12.72	2.47	15.74	-0.82
Wash/Dulles	75	56	81	51	66	4	693	NA	1.84	13.21	3.78	17.29	1.99

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

CLARKE (Jacob Grove)

All hay is headed out, there have not been many opportunities to cut or bale hay with scattered shower most days of the week.

FAIRFAX

Very wet conditions with extremely strong storms

FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)

Rainfall for the last 6 days. Thunderstorms and heavy rains. Cool temperatures

WESTERN

ROANOKE (Sheri Dorn)

Cloudy, cool, wet conditions prevailed this week. Soil is wet and can't be worked. Hay cutting is delayed with daily storms.

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

A cool wet week ended with summer-like heat Friday - Sunday and a county-wide thunderstorm Sunday night that brought .4 of an inch or more to the entire county. Rainfall totals for the week across the county varied from just under 1 inch to over 2 inches. A significant acreage of first cutting hay was mown Friday and Saturday and some corn was planted those days as well.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

Numerous scattered thunderstorms May 14th - May 17th. No damage, but rain totals varied considerably throughout the county, from just under 1/2 inch to 3+ inches of rain. It was not a good hay cutting/curing week. Rain for the corn crop was beneficial as it was beginning to need it. In some areas of the county, it is too wet for tobacco growers to plant.

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Tobacco planting continues slowly due to the wet soil conditions. Wheat is starting to lodge due to the thunderstorms. Hay is maturing quickly but harvest is impeded due to weather. Conditions excellent for the early planted soybeans and the corn.

CENTRAL (*continued*)

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Soil moisture is very good. Small grains, pasture and hay fields are looking excellent. Most of the planted corn is up and growing well. Farmers are top-dressing fields that have reached 18-20" in height. Farmers are scouting small grain crops and corn for insects and diseases. No serious problems have been reported. Vegetable farmers are harvesting strawberries and greens and scouting potatoes, squash and other early summer crops for insects and diseases. Some late blight has been reported in potatoes, as have potato beetles.

CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

Scattered thunderstorms - no damage reported. A wide variance in amounts of rain received, 1/4 inch to 2.5 inches of rain. Not a good week for hay cutting or curing. Corn was in need of rain.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Haymakers continue to play hide and seek with the rain showers and thunderstorms as forecasters continue to modify the forecast by what they see out the window. Some rains this week have been in excess of an inch but a lot of spotty showers. Small grain continues to look like it will make good yields. Despite the numerous storms there had not been a lot of knockdown and lodging. Corn is off to a good start after delayed planting. Beans are beginning to be seen in drive-by analysis.

ORANGE (Steve Hopkins)

There was minor flooding of low areas this past week resulting in damage to approximately 5% of the corn crop. The hay crop will have excellent yields this year; however quality will be lower because of delayed harvest or damage from rain.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

A few farmers reported hail damage to corn and barley. As weather conditions allowed, farmers spent the week side-dressing corn with nitrogen, planting full-season soybeans, and making post-emergence herbicide applications to corn. Vegetable producers continued harvesting strawberries, asparagus, greens, and other spring crops.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Rain this week has done exceptional things for the corn and wheat crop. Wheat is drying down fast, especially in the sandier soils. Corn stands were in need of rain and warmer temps, and that should be together by this weekend. Some side-dressing begins. Producers are applying herbicides for post treatments to corn. Land prep continues for soybean planting. Full season soybean planting continues. Producers also are doing some last minute scouting of wheat crops to make sure all is well. Barley has really turned and harvest may begin in some places by June 1. Sampling for pre-side dress nitrate testing begins. Haymaking continues and quality and quantity is good. Cantaloupes, sweet corn, peppers, squash and tomatoes continue to be planted and look good. Sweet potatoes will begin planting next week.

SOUTHEASTERN

SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

Corn & cotton planting is complete. Peanuts and full-season soybeans are being planted now. Although lack of rains over the past week have slowed soybean planting. Pastures are looking better. Topsoil is dry and in need of rain. Winter wheat is full headed and looking good.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells, Sussex ANR Agent)

Scattered showers fell over parts of our area this week providing us with some needed moisture. Peanut and cotton planting is almost complete and soybean planting continued. Wheat crop looks very good at this point. Burn-down applications continue on soybean fields.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

We received less than 1-inch of rain this week in most places. More rain was hoped for and will suffice for short term. Wheat yield may decrease some if additional rain does not come by next week. Soybean planting is ahead of schedule with dry field conditions. Corn germination has been good till now.

SOUTHWESTERN

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Frequent storms have slowed most farming activities. Little vegetable plastic has been layed, and concerns are whether or not they will be able to lay in time to meet planting deadlines.

SMYTH (Andy Overbay)

Predicted cool, damp weather kept machinery in the shed and hay crops unharvested. The maturity of the hay crop has led to some sacrificing of first cuttings in hopes of better weather for the next cutting. Row crops operations were also halted as the cool weather made the best place for unplanted seeds to be in the bag.

TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)

Last week was cold for this time of year.



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